

LAUREN FAIR

OBJECTS CONSERVATOR & EDUCATOR

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WORK HISTORY

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

2019—Present Conservator and Head of Objects Conservation

2015—2019 Associate Objects Conservator

2012—2015 Assistant Objects Conservator

2011—2012 Advanced Conservation Fellow

Manages care of collection objects, including garden sculpture, historic building elements, and automobiles; supervises objects lab staff, interns, and fellows; and coordinates X-radiography. Serves on emergency response team and diversity, equity, access, and inclusion task force. Contributes to public conservation clinics, workshops, tours, social media, events.

Winterthur/University of Delaware

2022—Present Affiliated Associate Professor

2011—2022 Affiliated Assistant Professor

Mentors and educates conservation graduate students; serves on Academic Advisory Committees for objects majors; leads second-year seminars; and teaches first-year Inorganic Block. Chairs Curriculum Committee and NEH Fellow Selection Committee; leads grant initiatives; and serves on Executive Committee and Admissions Committee on rotation.

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

2010—2011 Samuel H. Kress Fellow

Conducted research, survey, analysis, and treatment of Winterthur's collection of ~270 18th-19th-century Staffordshire earthenware figures, contributing new information about English enamel color technology. Published and taught lectures on this research, both internally and to local public audiences.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

2009—2010 Graduate Intern, Sherman Fairchild Center for Objects Conservation

Collaboratively treated and researched aspects of the "Damascus Room" during renovation of Islamic Galleries; investigated original ceiling arrangement; and characterized original materials to reconstruct two didactic wall panels. Other projects included European and Asian ceramics, archaeological Iranian glass, and 13th-century Tibetan metalwork.

Milner and Carr (now Materials Conservation Collaborative)

2009 Summer Graduate Intern in Conservation

Trained alongside architects, gilders, masons, and conservators on projects including laser cleaning architectural terra cotta, iron stain removal and bioremediation of limestone, and ultra-high-pressure water blasting bronze statuary. Completed treatments of fire-damaged gilt harp, acrylic kinetic sculpture, archaeological iron, and architectural bronze.

Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design

2008 Summer Graduate Intern in Conservation

Completed final phase in multi-year conservation project of museum's early 18th-century "Damascus Room," carrying out in-situ treatment of decorative surfaces and advising museum staff on preventive conservation care.

William A. Lewin Conservator, LLC

2006—2007 Conservation Assistant

Learned traditional and modern conservation approaches to oil and water gilding, carrying out major treatments such as 20'X30' frame for the US Capitol and four 18th-century French chairs for the White House; conducted consultations at museums and historic sites in DC-Baltimore area; and assisted in daily studio management.

ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

University of Delaware's Women's Leadership Initiative

2023 Mar-Apr Online Certificate Program

Dedicated to cultivating leadership practice, course includes five live sessions and four self-paced modules to hone vision, executive communication skills, emotional intelligence, and building organizational culture for diversity and inclusion.

International Council of Museums Committee for Conservation Glass and Ceramics Working Group

2017–2023 Coordinator

2014–2017 Assistant Coordinator

Directs and promotes projects to advance research in care and connoisseurship of glass and ceramic cultural heritage, including conferences, peer-reviewed publications, newsletters, online discussions, and member surveys. Organized three Interim Meetings with accompanying Preprints: Lisbon 2022 (hybrid), London 2019, and Wrocław 2016. Advocates for all Working Groups and leads communications with ICOM-CC board to promote collegial and transparent practice.

Friends of Barnard Station

2021–Present Advisor

Advises board on fundraising strategies, historic preservation, and collections management policies, supporting efforts to establish heritage center at Barnard Station, Chester County Quaker home and active stop on Underground Railroad.

Society of Winterthur Fellows

2016–2022 Board Member

Developed events and member services for Winterthur/University of Delaware alumni association. Launched Society's new website (www.sowf.org), creating content, executing web design, and overseeing site management.

Sustainability in Conservation: The Future of Conservation

2022 Sep Panelist

Invited to speak on panel at ICOM-CC Metals Working Group Interim Meeting in Helsinki; generated discussion about future of conservation and collective responsibility to instill sustainable practice in all we do.

WUDPAC Affiliated Faculty Retreat

2022 Jul Organizer

As WUDPAC Curriculum Committee Chair, organized two-day retreat for affiliated faculty to address challenges of dual museum and university appointments; facilitated by Dialogic Consulting, resulting action items now underway.

Inclusive Conservation Education for ANAGPIC Faculty

2020 Aug Organizer

Initiated and co-organized two training sessions for faculty of Association of North American Graduate Programs in Conservation centered on making conservation education more inclusive and challenging white supremacy framework of academia; sessions moderated by Ama Codjoe and sponsored by ANAGPIC and WUDPAC.

Inclusion and Equity in Conservation and Preservation

2017 May Organizer

Co-organized pre-conference session at AIC Meeting in Chicago centered on inclusion and equity and conservation and envisioning a more equitable profession for future. Workshop moderated by Sanchita Balachandran, Nikhil Trivedi, Lisa Marie Pickens, and Manju Rajendran of the Anti-Oppression Resource + Training Alliance.

TEACHING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

University of Delaware

ARTC 657 Conservation Principles: Inorganic Materials Conservation Block

WUDPAC first year, four weeks covering conservation of glass, ceramics, metals, and stone. Includes mixture of lecture, discussion, independent work, field trips, and hands-on practical exercises.

ARTC 658 & 659 Advanced Apprenticeship and Research in Conservation: Objects Major

WUDPAC second year, develops conservation treatment skills and scholarship, fluency with multifaceted documentation, solid ethical foundation of practice, effective communication, professionalism, and ability to efficiently manage multiple deadline-driven projects. Students research and treat variety of objects and participate in diverse series of seminars.

Seminars I developed and lead:

- Values-based decision making in objects conservation
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion in conservation
- Stone conservation
- Stain reduction of ceramics
- Creating a second year online portfolio
- Glass loss compensation
- Epoxy colorfills and bulked B-72 fills for porcelain
- Advanced topics in metals conservation
- Authenticity and permanence in digital media
- Care and maintenance of operational cultural objects

ARTC 666 Independent Study

Major supervisor for ten WUDPAC second-year independent studies:

- Perspectives on Documenting Time-Based Media (Daniella Briceño Villamil, Fall 2022)
- 3D Scanning the Fragments of a Large Zinc Statue (Olav Bjornerud, Spring 2022)
- Investigating Accepted and Innovative Materials for Glass Fills (Katie Shulman, Spring 2022)
- Non-Colonial Communication Systems in Museums (Nylah Byrd, Fall 2020)
- An Investigation of Preservation Solutions for a “Missing” Chicano Mural (Abby Rodriguez, Fall 2020)
- Organic Pseudomorphs from Ur: Documentation Imaging at the Penn Museum (Kate Acuna, Spring 2020)
- Painted Outdoor (Movable) Sculpture: Coating Analysis and Proposal for Testing of a 1927 Pall Mall-Bodied Rolls-Royce Phantom I (Kate Acuna, Fall 2019)
- The Mitigation of Epoxy Yellowing (Cassia Balogh, Spring 2018)
- Practical Experiences in Metalworking (Haddon Dine, Spring 2018)
- Artist’s Machine Deconstructed: Input Devices, Arduino, Output to Actuators, Etc. (Nick Kaplan, Fall 2017)

Winterthur Program in American Material Culture: Ceramics and Glass Block

Half-day seminar on ceramics and glass conservation and thesis research consultations.

ARTC 464 Conservation Internship

Undergraduate-level practical internship course in ceramics conservation, hosted at Winterthur.

Other Teaching and Mentoring Experience

West Dean College

2023 Feb-Mar, co-supervisor to Denise Araxi Carapiet for six-week graduate work placement at Winterthur.

California Polytechnic State University

2022–2023, co-supervisor to Alison Chew for eight-month internship focusing on coating failure mechanisms on silverplate at Winterthur and the University of Delaware, sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Opportunity for Diversity in Conservation.

Alliance of HBCU Museums & Galleries, et. al.

2022 May, introduction to ceramics conservation and practical ceramic assembly exercise as part of the Six-Week Internship in Practical Conservation for four HBCU students.

2019 Jun, practical applications in silver conservation and electroplating exercise as part of the Two-Week Internship in Practical Conservation for four HBCU students.

Lewis & Clark College

2018 Nov, public lecture on Ethics in Art Conservation and consultations with undergraduate art history students.

Winterthur Postgraduate Conservation Fellowship

2016–2018, major supervisor to Madeline Hagerman for a two-year fellowship in objects conservation, including survey, treatment, and research into Winterthur's ceramic tile collection. Fellowship culminated in published papers, professional talks, online engagement, and in-situ treatment during public tours of two mounted fireplace surrounds.

University of Arizona

2017 Feb, public lecture on Methods of Stain Reduction for Ceramics.

New York University

2015 Jun, lecture titled "Ceramic Making Across Borders: Insight into the Influence of Porcelain through Conservation Science," for the NYU Summer Institute in Technical Art History: Material Movement: Global Artistic Interdependencies and Exchanges.

University of Delaware

2015 Mar, lecture to undergraduate Museum Studies class on Ethics in Art Conservation.

2012 Mar, lecture to undergraduate Conservation Science class on Ethics in Art Conservation.

Winterthur Collector's Circle

2015 Nov, workshop, "The Technology of Color: Looking at Polychrome Enamelled Ceramics."

2014 Nov, workshop, "Collecting with Care: Ivory in the Decorative Arts."

Princeton University

2010 Nov, lecture for a daylong PhD and Graduate Workshop on Ming Dynasty Ceramic Sculpture.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Metals Conservation Pedagogy

Fall 2023 six-week sabbatical dedicated to exploring metals conservation pedagogy at selected sites in Europe and the UK to bolster metals conservation expertise and implement useful improvements in WUDPAC Inorganic Objects curriculum; outcomes and findings to be shared through publications and lectures.

Teaching Ethics in Objects Conservation

Revising teaching ethics at WUDPAC to meet needs of changing field and society; studying education theory on learning styles, reflective judgement, and collaborative learning to inform approach; book chapter in *Prioritizing People in Ethical Decision-Making and Caring for Cultural Heritage Collections*, edited by Nina Owczarek Herrera (Routledge, forthcoming), considers how conservation educators can prioritize ethics alongside practical treatment skills.

Coatings for Silver, Silverplate, and Copper Alloys

Collaborative research at Winterthur refining approach to coating historic silver, silverplate, and copper alloys; involves technicians, interns, scientists, curators, and silver historians. Recent work includes evaluating long-term effects of ultraviolet dye additive to nitrocellulose lacquer, using Fiber Optic Reflectance Spectroscopy to measure and evaluate coating thickness, and investigating interactions of nitrocellulose with fused plate substrates. Collaborating with metals conservation department at West Dean College to make the fused plate samples for ageing tests.

Stain Reduction of Ceramics

Established successful protocol for treating stains in historic ceramics; taught national workshops, presented research and workshop content at 2013 ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group Interim Meeting, leading to subsequent workshops in the US and abroad. In 2022, established online stain reduction discussion forum. In 2023, will advise project team in Belgium studying ceramics heavily stained during severe floods.

Professional workshops on ceramic stain reduction include:

- 2023 invited workshops at West Dean College (Chichester, UK) and La Cambre (Brussels, Belgium)
- 2022 Aug, two 2-day workshops held at University College London and sponsored by the Institute of Conservation Ceramics and Glass Group
- 2021 Nov, online lecture, sponsored by the Institute of Conservation Ceramics and Glass Group
- 2015 Apr, two-day workshop for objects, paintings, paper, and furniture conservators, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- 2014 Apr, daylong workshop for objects conservators, Lunder Conservation Center, Washington, DC
- 2013 Jan, daylong workshop for objects conservators, Walters Art Museum, Baltimore
- 2012 May, daylong workshop for objects conservators, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Sustainable Garden Object Maintenance

Established sustainable maintenance plan for 400+ garden objects at Winterthur, including seasonal covers, movement tracking protocols, and protective coatings for lead. Presented treatment of lead sculpture at 2017 AIC Annual Meeting and delivered numerous talks to Winterthur members. In 2023, will host director of H. Crowther Ltd. to provide historical context and preservation advice; collaboration outcomes to be shared with Winterthur community and beyond.

Staffordshire Figures at Winterthur: A Technical Study of the Polychrome Decoration

2010-2011 yearlong Samuel H. Kress internship at Winterthur, exploring technical aspects of Staffordshire enamels on lead-glazed earthenware and discovering “new” colorant unique to English wares. Presented and published at many venues. Currently, curating display at Winterthur featuring research and analysis of Staffordshire figure collection.

Syrian Painted Interiors

At The Metropolitan Museum of Art, collaboratively investigated materials and methods of manufacture for Syrian painted interiors of the Ottoman Empire. Produced two didactic panels featured alongside museum’s Damascus Room installation, illustrating original colors, and in poster at 2010 IIC Congress in Istanbul.

PUBLICATIONS

Fair, Lauren, and Lara Kaplan. Forthcoming. “Incorporating Philosophy and Ethics in Objects Conservation Curricula.” In *Prioritizing People in Ethical Decision-Making and Caring for Cultural Heritage Collections*, edited by Nina Owczarek Herrera. Oxfordshire, UK: Routledge.

Shulman, Katie, and **Lauren Fair**. 2022. “Investigating Accepted and Innovative Materials for Glass Fills.” Poster at *Recent Advances in Glass and Ceramics Conservation 2022*, the ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group interim meeting, Lisbon, Portugal, 9-11 November 2022.

Grayburn, Rosie, and **Lauren Fair**. 2022. “A Lacquer to Dye For! Exploring a UV fluorescent additive for coating application in silver conservation.” Poster at *METAL2022*, the ICOM-CC Metals Working Group interim meeting, Helsinki, Finland, 5-9 September 2022.

Fair, Lauren, Lara Kaplan, Debbie Hess Norris, and Melissa Tedone. 2021. “Winterthur University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC): Update.” In *AIC News* 46(3): 33-35.

Crawford, Michael K., **Lauren Fair**, Katelyn Rovito, Tia Polidori, and Rosie Grayburn. 2021. “Thickness Measurements of Clear Coatings on Silver Objects using Fiber Optic Reflectance Spectroscopy.” In *JAIC*.

Fair, Lauren. 2021. “Ceramics and Glass” and “Metals.” In *Caring for Your Cherished Objects: The Winterthur Guide*, edited by Joy Gardiner and Joan Irving. Winterthur, DE: Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum.

- Fair, Lauren.** 2018. "Shedding Light on the Colors of Staffordshire Figures." In *The Staffordshire Figure Association Newsletter* (Fall 2018): 20-23.
- Fair, Lauren,** and Adam Jenkins. 2017. "Pepper Wax: An Organic Squirrel Deterrent for Lead." *AIC Objects Specialty Group Postprints* 23: 437-444.
- Roemich, Hannelore, PhD, and **Lauren Fair**, eds. 2016. *Recent Advances in Glass and Ceramics Conservation 2016*. Pre-prints of the ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group Interim Meeting, Wrocław, Poland, 25-29 May 2016. ICOM Committee for Conservation.
- Fair, Lauren,** and Dr. Jennifer Mass. 2013. "Polychrome Decoration on Staffordshire Figures: Identification of a New Enamel Colourant and Underglaze Oxide." In *Recent Advances in Glass, Stained-Glass, and Ceramics Conservation 2013*. Pre-prints of the ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group Interim Meeting and the Forum of the International Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Stained Glass, Amsterdam, NL, 7-10 October 2013, edited by Hannelore Roemich and Kate van Lookeren Campagne, 281-293. ICOM Committee for Conservation.
- Fair, Lauren,** and Dr. Jennifer Mass. 2013. "Polychrome Decoration on Staffordshire Figures: The Identification of a New Enamel Colorant and Underglaze Oxide Recipes Using Technical Analysis." In *Ars Ceramica* 29: 6-39.
- Pouliot, Bruno, **Lauren Fair**, and Richard Wolbers. 2013. "Re-thinking the Approach: Techniques Explored at Winterthur for the Stain Reduction of Ceramics." In *Recent Advances in Glass, Stained-Glass, and Ceramics Conservation 2013*. Pre-prints of the ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group Interim Meeting and the Forum of the International Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Stained Glass, Amsterdam, NL, 7-10 October 2013, edited by Hannelore Roemich and Kate van Lookeren Campagne, 211-223. ICOM Committee for Conservation.
- Wagner, Ann, Mary McGinn, and **Lauren Fair**. 2012. "Scratching the Surface of American Painted Tinware." In *Antiques & Fine Art Magazine* XI (6): 189-191.
- Fair, Lauren.** 2012. "Under, Over, and In the Mix: A Practical Guide to Telling the Difference Between Types of Polychrome Decoration on English Earthenware Figures." Poster presented at the 2012 meeting of the AIC in Albuquerque, NM, 8-11 May 2012.
- Fair, Lauren,** Beth Edelstein, and Adrianna Rizzo. 2010. "Painting Techniques of Ottoman Interiors: Reconstructing Decorative Panels from a Damascus Room at the Metropolitan Museum of Art." Poster presented at the 2010 meeting of the IIC in Istanbul, Turkey, 20-24 September 2010.

FUNDRAISING

National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation and Access Education and Training

2023	\$250,000 with an additional \$100,000 1:1 match to support WUDPAC graduate students
2019	\$350,000 to support WUDPAC graduate students
2017	\$150,000 with an additional \$25,000 1:1 match to support WUDPAC graduate students

Principal Investigator for WUDPAC; cumulatively earned \$875,000 to support graduate students. Developed and direct NEH Fellow Program to increase outreach and community engagement through faculty teaching and student projects; thus far, sponsored twelve projects that impacted countless individuals and communities.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Keystone Historic Preservation Planning

2022	\$25,000 1:1 match for the Friends of Barnard Station to complete a Preservation Plan
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Advisor to the Friends of Barnard Station in pursuing and approaching this grant application.

Gabo Trust for Sculpture Conservation

2014 \$600 to attend *Aluminum: History, Technology and Conservation*, Washington DC, 7-9 April

George Stout Scholarship

2010 \$1,000 to attend *Conservation and the Eastern Mediterranean*, IIC Congress, Istanbul, Turkey, 20-24 September

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Council of Museums Committee for Conservation

2017–2023 Coordinator, Glass and Ceramics Working Group
2014–2017 Assistant Coordinator, Glass and Ceramics Working Group
2008–Present Member

American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works and Objects Specialty Group

2016–Present Professional Associate and period reviewer for contributions to the Objects Specialty Group
2007–2016 Member

Society of Winterthur Fellows

2007–Present Member
2016–2022 Board Member

Philadelphia Art Conservation Association

2013–Present Member

EDUCATION

Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation

2010 Master of Science in Art Conservation
Specialty: Objects Conservation

University of Delaware

2005 Bachelor of Arts in Art History with a Minor in Spanish Studies
Honors: cum laude

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Women's Leadership Initiative Online Certificate Program

2023 Five online sessions and four self-paced modules, sponsored by the University of Delaware Alfred Lerner College of Business & Economics, March and April

Race, Power, and Responsibility: Diversity Education for AIC Members

2021 Training led by Dr. Nicole Robinson and Cultural Connections by Design, sponsored by AIC, 29 October

Inclusive Conservation Education for ANAGPIC Faculty

2020 Co-organized two training sessions for all ANAGPIC faculty led by Ama Codjoe, sponsored by ANAGPIC and WUDPAC, 10 and 20 August

Indigenous Futures and Collaborative Conservation

2019 Closing session of the 47th Annual Meeting of AIC, Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT, 17 May

Days of Fire

2018 Experimental pyrotechnology workshop on Iron Age smelting and ironworking, Bronze Age copper casting, and ancient glass bead manufacture, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY, 21-22 September

It's About Time: Building a New Discipline: Time Based Media Art Conservation

2018 Symposium, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, NY, 20-22 May

A Facilitated Conversation About Inclusion and Equity in Conservation and Preservation

2017 Co-organized session at the 45th Annual AIC Meeting in Chicago with Sanchita Balachandran, nikhil trivedi, Lisa Marie Pickens, and Manju Rajendran of AORTA (Anti-Opression Resource + Training Alliance), 29 May

3D Photogrammetry

2016 Weeklong course by Cultural Heritage Imaging, Buffalo State College, NY, 8-11 August

Cleaning of Decorative and Historic Finishes

2015 Weeklong workshop sponsored by FAIC in collaboration with WUDPAC and the AIC Wooden Artifacts Group, Winterthur Museum, DE, 3-7 August

Influencing for Impact: Leadership Strategies for Success

2015 Workshop by Bob Norris and AIC Collections Care Network, 43rd Annual Meeting of the AIC, Miami, FL, 13 May

Standards for Cleaning Masonry Buildings

2014 Colloquium sponsored by the AIA Historic Resources Committee, the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, and the AIC Architectural Specialty Group, Taliesin West, AZ, 10-12 October

Introduction to Identification of Aluminum Alloys and Finishes

2014 Weeklong conference and workshop led by Malcolm Collum, David Hallam, Bruce Hinton, and Bruce Kaiser at the Emil Buehler Conservation Laboratory at the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, Chantilly, VA, 7-11 April

Highlight Reflectance Transformation Imaging

2013 Weeklong course taught by Cultural Heritage Imaging, Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, DE, 22-25 January

Traditional Gilding and Conservation of Gilt Wooden Objects

2011 Workshop taught by Marie Dubost at Winterthur Museum, 10-12 October